

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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USUN NEW YORK 2048

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0214

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: URQUHART'S IMPRESSIONS OF WALDHEIM'S TRIP

1. SUMMARY: ASYG URQUHART SAYS GOI UNCONVINCED OF RECENT CHANGES IN ARAB WORLD. REMAINS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA UNDER ANY FORMULA. URQUHART BELIEVES SADAT IS "DESPERATE" AND SOME WAY MUST BE FOUND TO RESCUE HIM FROM HIS PRESENT EXPOSED POSITION. WHILE FIRM ON NO UN ROLE IN PEACEMAKING, ISRAELIS HAVE PERSONNALLY BEEN CORDIAL TO WALDHEIM AND HIS PARTY. WALDHEIM SAYS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN HIS TRIP AND SECRETARY'S.

2. BRIAN URQUHART ASKED ME TO MEET HIM THIS MORNING FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF WALDHEIM'S TRIP THUS FAR, WHICH WAS SANDWICHED IN BETWEEN HEAVY SCHEDULE OF MEETING. IN SUM, URQUHART SAYS ISRAELIS DO NOT SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE ARAB WORLD WHERE,

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FOR THE FIRST TIME, ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS ARE WILLING TO FACE UP TO REALITY. THIS WAS CERTAINLY TRUE OF EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN AS WELL AS ARAFAT.

3. RABIN, HE SAID, HAD STATED ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY ARAB THREATS OR WARNINGS AND FIRMLY OPPOSED PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. HE RE-

ITERATED ISRAEL'S STANDARD POSITION THAT GOI READY TO GO TO GENEVA "TOMORROW" ON BASIS OF ORIGINAL INVITATIONS. ALTHOUGH ISRAELIS HAVE TAKEN HARD LINE DURING TALKS, THEY HAD GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO BE CORDIAL PERSONALLY TO SYG AND HIS COLLEAGUES.

4. URQUHART SAID ALL ARABS SYG HAD TALKED TO WERE REALISTIC AND MODERATE WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF FAHMY. HE CONFIRMED ARAFAT HAD TOLD WALDHEIM PLO WILLING TO SET UP WEST BANK/ GAZA STATE. URQUHART SAYS ARAFAT DID NOT GO ON TO STATE THAT THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, WALDHEIM INTERPRETED ARAFAT'S STATEMENT IN THIS SENSE AND PASSED INTERPRETATION ON TO ISRAELIS WHO LEAKED IT.

5. IN URQUHART'S VIEW, SADAT "DESPERATE" AND BADLY EXPOSED AS RESULT HIS PEACE OFFENSIVE. SINCE SYG'S REPORT TO SC WOULD REVEAL THERE NO PROSPECT FOR EARLY RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. URQUHART HOPED "SOMEONE" WOULD BE ABLE TO HEAD OFF EGYPTIAN RECOURSE TO SC.

6. URQUHART SAYS SYG REQUIRED TOMAKE TRIP PURSUANT TO GA RESOLUTIONS IN ORDER TO PREPARE HIS REPORT AND THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS ONLY US CAN SERVE AS MEDIATOR AT THIS TIME. URQUHART GOES ON TO CAIRO AND CYPRUS WITH SYG. FROM THERE HE WILL GO TO PARIS TO CATCH CONCORDE FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON FEB 14 IN TIME, HE HOPES, TO BRIEF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON.
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